(c) In the said report the trends have been indicated region-wise and not country-wise. The unemployment rate in South Asian Region, of which India is a part, increased to 5.4 in 2008 over 5.3 in 2007.

(d) Government is concerned about the impact of global financial crises on the Indian economy and several measures financial and fiscal have been initiated to instill confidence in the economy, spur growth and overcome crises. Some of the important steps relate to RBI measures to enhance liquidity in the market and two economic packages by the Government of India, mainly comprising additional spending, interest subvention and excise duty cuts. These measures will prevent large scale job losses. In order to provide a social safety net, with effect from 01-04-2005, the Employees' State Insurance Corporation has introduced "Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana". Under the scheme, employees who lose their employment due to retrenchment, closure of factories/establishments or permanent invalidity due to non-employment injury, after being insured for five or more years, were earlier entitled to unemployment allowance in cash equal to 50% of their wage upto 6 months during his/her entire service. This period is now extended to 12 months by Government. In addition, he and his family members are also entitled to medical care.

Registered unemployed

346. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of registered unemployed persons as on 30-06-2008; and

(b) the number of mandays lost during 2005 to 2008 due to strike, lock-out and lay off year and categories-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Total number of job seekers, all of whom may not necessarily be unemployed, registered with employment exchanges in the country as on 30.06.2008 was 39.33 million.

(b) Number of mandays lost during 2005 to 2008 due to strike, lock-out and lay-off is given below:

Mandays lost (in lakh)

Year	Strike	Lock-out	Lay-off	Total
2005	108.01	188.64	11.87	308.52
2006(P)	53.07	149.60	9.70	212.36
2007(P)	150.56	121.11	9.86	281.53
2008(P)	20.84	9.33	0.93	31.09

P : Provisional